

HERR HOUSE

58 WEST MAIN STREET

The Herr House, built soon after the 1883 fire destroyed the building that formerly stood on this site, is a mid-Victorian adaptation of a standard Westminster five-bay, 2-section house, with Germanic decoration. The Herr Brothers (Frank and Samuel) were noted local carriage builders and this house reflects their success and their Teutonic past, especially in the intricate carved plaques that decorate the area just below the eaves on the principal facade.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Carr 429

0704294611

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Herr House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

58 West Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Loring B. Yingling

Telephone #: 848-6939

STREET & NUMBER

902 Uniontown Road

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

Liber #: 330

Folio #: 296

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Number 58 West Main Street looks south to the north side of that street (St. Route 32) about 100' west of the street's intersection with John Street in Westminster. The building is, basically, a mid-Victorian adaptation of the standard Westminster five-bay, two-section house; the word "basically" was used because there are other elements here as well, notably Germanic decoration.

A central, six-panel door is in the center of the ground floor; the door is approached by a flight of two brick steps, and is flanked by smooth pilasters, and topped by a (painted over) narrow rectangular transom. A heavily-modillioned cornice, supported by large end brackets, shelters the door. To the east and west of the door are two shops, a barber shop to the west, and the owner's real estate office to the east. The barber shop is approached by a western, glass and aluminum door; a large plate glass window separates the shop's door from the main door. The same arrangement of DWD is repeated to the east. The second floor of the south facade is, as noted, 5 bays wide, and consists of 4, regularly-placed 2/2 windows filling the western 4/5 of the floor, and a 3-sided, oriel window at the corner of the east and south facades. Windows on the oriel (one on each front) are also 2/2, but are further enriched by narrow recessed panels at their bases. All windows have three course gauged, flat arches, and white wooden sills. A very thick, molded, modillioned cornice tops the facade between the Flemish Bond wall of the building and its slate, gable roof. Long, almost anatomical, brackets, placed alternately with the windows, support this cornice; the brackets are tied together at their bases by a molded, wooden string course. In the space created by the cornice, the string course, and the brackets, is an elaborately carved, flat plaque, with a central rosette and with other floral designs leading out from it, all carved in a manner reminiscent of that associated with the "Pennsylvania Dutch". The east and west walls originally had windows, but, due to the to the presence of more recent buildings, these windows have been filled in.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1883

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Number 58 West Main Street is a superb example of how architectural styles can be adapted, when there is a strong local tradition, to include alterations and decorations that reflect sociological and aesthetic requirements. Deprived of the geometric plaques and corner oriel window, the building would be similar to dozens in the City built one, two or three generations earlier (except for a certain heaviness in proportion), and would be identical with several buildings built within a year or two of it. However, the builder felt the need to add certain naturalistic features. Interestingly for a variety of possible reasons, the builder did not deem it desirable to go very far from the mold compared to no. 35 West Main Street across the street, an example of the house built at that time, but a house treated more freely than no. 58. On the other hand, next door to no. 58, is a row of buildings, roughly contemporaneous yet much more conservative in style. Whether these differences among the buildings is a result of aesthetic or psychological or monetary causes is unclear. (Right across the street from no. 58 is the Montour House, a building of approximately the same date as no. 58, but a building that is lacking in ornamentation and conservative in form.) These Germanic plaques found on several buildings around the 1870's are not, of course, a result solely of Westminster Germanic ancestry; an international vogue for clutter must also be remembered.

The land no. 58 sits on is part of two lots of a subdivision laid out by the Catholic Church in the Civil War era. (For a more complete discussion of this, see the form for no. 53 West Main Street.) Lot 4 was leased by Alfred Troxel from the Redemptionists on May 13, 1863, Carroll County Deed Book 30, Page 34; Troxel almost immediately (on June 8, 1863 - Deed 30/108) subleased the land to Elizabeth J. Shriner. Also, on May 13, 1863, the Redemptionists leased the lot 5 to Edward Koontz, Deed 30/145. The rent for both of these lots was \$24 a year. Lot 54 was sold by Shriner's trustees to Cornelius Wantz on August 1, 1875 (Equity Case No. 1361, Deed 45/427), and was sold by Wantz to Frank K. Herr and Brother on April 2, 1883 for \$2600 (60/28). The other lot was purchased by the Herr Brothers (Frank and Samuel) on November 23, 1875 for \$3000 (45/538). The 1887 City Directory has Frank Herr as owning 58. The land and building stayed in the Herr family, through a multitudinous of conveyances (108/264, 139/442, 276/179) until

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being a 37' x 198' piece of land made of part of lot 4 and part of lot 5 as shown on a plat of the Catholic Chapel Addition to Westminster, recorded among the Land Records of Carroll County in Book 29, Page 446.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

February, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

#8

Ober S. Herr, Ober S. Herr, Jr. and William McD Herr sold the land to the present owners in Deed 330/296.

Herr and Brother was a firm that manufactured, according to an ad in the directory, "coaches, carriages, buggies, phaetons, Westminster wagons etc.," special attention was given to repairing. All orders promptly filled, and work of every kind, warranted." The ad lists its "factory" as being at 56 West Main Street "opposite the Montour House." (The entire block was destroyed by fire in April 1883, see form for 62-68 West Main Street.)



CARR 429

58 W. Main St.

Westminster

2/77 N. Jacade

C. Wechs

507.



5073

D-2

CARR 42⁹
58 W. Main St.
Westminster
2/77 C. Webb
S. Jander